THE BLACK DWARF.

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Satire's my weapon; but I'm too discreet
To run a-muck and tilt at all I meet,
I only wear it in a land of Hectors,
Thieves, Supercargoes, Sharpers, and Directors. POPE.

THE ELECTOR.—No. 4.

AN ADDRESS TO THE ELECTORS OF HULL, AND THE FEW INDEPENDENT BOROUGHS.

Awake! for shame! throw off your sluggish dreams—
The night is passing, and the morning beams:
Awake! awake! nor let the waning sun
Proclaim the business of the day undone.

In the present condition of our country, it is our duty to seize upon every means to form the basis of future redemption. Our cause is *advanced*—our banners are crowded by countless multitudes, and the justice of our claims seems to warrant an easy, as well as a successful, result. Our opponents are as contemptible in character as weak in numbers; but holding by the corruption upon which they live they will not be shaken off without an effort. To rid the body politic of such disagreeable vermin, we must *probe the sores* on which they fatten. There are but few places in which any proportion of the people have any *real power* in the choice of their representatives; and even where the *real power* exists, it is rendered null in too many cases, by the credulity of the electors, and the mean artifices made use of to deceive and betray them. Where these artifices are seen through, surely they will be resisted. Past experience should teach us present wisdom; and what we have lost make us still more earnest to secure what yet remains.

The electors of Hull have long held a distinguished rank among the few bodies which have endeavoured to check the torrent of corruption. Their numbers and general independence have placed them on an eminence from which one might have imagined they could despise all efforts to render them subservient to the measures of a faction. To any extent, they cannot be bribed to betray their duty. Their good sense should prevent them from deceiving themselves; and the important interests confided to their keeping, should have taught them to have been *circumspect*, while they were ardent, and discriminating, as well as zealous. Strange as it may appear, this town has been no better represented than the most despicable borough. Its various contests have all been thrown away. Either honesty or talent has been wanting on the part of the representatives. They have done nothing either for the local or the general interests of their constituents. Either a total neglect, or a positive prostitution has rendered them among the veriest panders of the minister of the day. The electors have conferred all their favors without meeting any other return then injury, or insult:—and their good intentions towards the cause of freedom have been all frustrated. The same remark applies to most other places where the electors can choose their representatives, and where they have endeavoured to choose them. Mere trading politicians, without either integrity, or talent, have rendered abortive all the exertions which the electors imagined they were making in the cause of freedom. Butterworths,* Stanniforths, Denwys, &c. are to be met with in such fatal abundance, that they choke up the growth of more wholesome plants. It has been our endeavour to point out these abuses, and to shew the remedy for them, in all cases where the electors are at liberty to exercise their opinions. Some good effects have followed the exposures we have made.

Broadhurst, who bought Hedon of Mr. Iveson, does not renew his bargain. He offers his services for Sudbury, perhaps, hoping to obtain a *better bargain;* as he pathetically wrote that "*he had been no gainer*," by his last purchase. But it seems Sudbury is rising in the market, as Alderman Heygate, not choosing to commence an appeal to the electors in London where he is known, has gone to bid for the Sudbury representation against the said Mr. Broadhurst. If the electors have either wit or prudence they will *take neither*. The worthy Alderman in his town transactions has not yet discovered to which party it is prudent to belong; and as to Mr. Broadhurst, is it at all ungenerous to suppose that he who *bought Hedon* would hesitate to sell Sudbury. Poor Iveson! his monopoly of two seats seems a little shaken. And perhaps the electors of Hedon have now discovered that *ten pounds a year* is but a sorry price for being willing and degraded slaves. A contest will take place, and we can only say "God defend the right!"

The exposure of the state of Petersfield has had also the effect of producing some *little attention* to common decency in the projected security of the borough in the cause of corruption. The Mayor, the returning officer, so happily met

* This man who obtained his election for Coventry, on the principles of reform, has been in the house the most persevering enemy to reform; and not content with abandoning his adopted opinions, he has endeavoured to assist still further the cause of corruption by interfering with his religious friends, to procure the return of a ministerial member for Norwich. The particulars of this transaction may be found in No. 12, of the first volume of the Black Dwarf. He has now the impudence to publish an address in which he falsely asserts that he has "endeavoured to reduce enormous taxation—to oppose an improvident expenditure—to reform abuses—and support the Laws, in order to protect the liberties of our glorious constitution!!!" All these he puts in capitals, and this contemptible cant, in the face of its falsehood, he imagines will again impose upon the electors of Coventry! He feels that he has not satisfied *all* parties. What not with all these qualifications? Who could be dissatisfied with all this merit if it existed? No, it is because he has not done this—because he has done precisely the reverse—because he has endeavoured to perpetuate, improvident expenditure, and enormous taxation, that he feels he merits the opposition of the electors. But as they have *found him*, they will judge him. Too trifling for anger, he may be dismissed with contempt, to carry his *independence* to its proper market.

in the person of the Rev. W. Joliffe, the brother of the past *proprietor*, has actually spent *two or three days* in the borough. He has *even preached!*—and more, he has *administered the sacrament!!* His discourse was on *brotherly love*, not the most excellent subject for a clergyman in the interest of the borough-mongers. He had better have preached from the chapter which recommends the *love of enemies*. Perhaps, however, he reserves this for the ensuing election.

The Electors of Petersfield are at present very anxious that his following text should be taken from the latter part of the 16th verse, in the 1st chapter of the First of Corinthians—"*For necessity is laid upon me: yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!*"

The success of the electors in the smaller boroughs is however, problematical. There influence is carried to such an extreme, and the venal have been so long accustomed to the baseness of selling the prosperity of the country for a paltry bribe, that there is little hope of arousing them to a sense of their actual degradation. Accustomed to wallow in the mire, they have learnt to love the filth with which they are enveloped. Their "*glorious constitution*" means *ten pounds a year*, or as many times in seven years to emulate their masters in the enviable luxury of riot, and debauchery. Nothing but the trumpet, of revenge can wake them. They must hold on their unhallowed course, until the hour of retribution shall arrive. But there may be some hopes that in those places where the *power* and the *desire* exists, to obtain justice for the country, there will be an exertion made, and a disinterestedness evinced, in the cause of reform. The general cry is, that *candidates are wanted*. Give honest men a chance of success, and you will have abundance of candidates. He who does not intend *to sell*, should not be expected *to buy*. The *honor* of sitting in the House of Commons, is now *properly* appreciated. No honest man would condescend to keep much of the company he would meet with there, but for the purpose of endeavouring to bring the oligarchy of pretended legislators, and real tyrants, to their senses. It was once deemed *honorable*, and *respectable*, to occupy the benches of the Commons' House. A British legislator, *while the secret* was better kept, was mistaken for a worthy, able, and dignified character. Many honest simpletons have been duped into the sacrifice of thousands in contests that were stimulated only by the desire of personal interests. These periods are gone for ever. He who would effect any thing for the people, as a representative, must prepare for something very different from the holiday amusement, of dressing to exhibit his pretty person in the chapel of St. Stephen's. The task of cleansing that augean stable demands herculean powers, and nerves firm as the Nemean lion. Personal comfort, personal security, personal regards must all be held as less than feathers in the balance. To unmask corruption, and to despise her scowling frowns, and grinning fangs—to drag the hypocrite from his covering mazes, and brand him in the face of open day—to give the villain his proper name, even in the sanctuary of guilt; and deride the whirlwind that the exposure would call into action. Labour of no common degree would be required—resolution and perseverance of no common stamp;—to detect the sophistry and unravel the artifices of the purchased juggler, and the hired parasite of power And do the Electors imagine that he who is ready to devote himself thus to the service, will be disposed *to purchase* the fatigues that he must encounter—to *buy* the difficulties which he will have to contend with on their behalf! Is it not enough that he offer up his time and talents to the service of his country? Is such a man likely to undergo the drudgery of solicitation, and to enter into the intrigues of modern elections? Are not the qualities requisite for the honest representative, and the contemptible entriguer for misrepresentation, essentially different? What hopes then of those, who are possessed of the common means of obtaining seats? In common life their pretensions would be ridiculed. What, trust their own reports of themselves, in the very evidence of their falsehood. Were any elector about to engage a confidential servant, would he ask him to write his own character? still less would he seek such a man from a common receptacle of bad characters, from among company of acknowledged bad repute; and still less would he engage any one who had already abused his confidence. Yet this is what the Electors of England are requested to do; and men who have no character to lose, pride themselves upon the license which it gives them to run any length which interest or ambition may point out to them as probable to be succeeded in. The boast of independence, from men who have never been known to be independent of any thing but *common honesty*, and *common sense*, fill the advertising columns of the public prints. The prints too are leagued with the abuses by which they profit; and it is no less singular than true, that the most popular paper in the metropolis was mean enough to tear from an advertisement for a *popular candidate*, that the electors would demand from any applicant *an oath* that he would oppose the corruptions of the system, and the future suspension of the laws!

The idea was a proper one. A public character *ought to know* the principles upon which he *intends to act*. And if he does know them, what rational objection can be advanced for not stating them, even upon oath? He may change. Granted. But ought he not to forfeit his seat, if he does? Will his change effect a change in his constituents? If there were any sympathy of that description, the plea might be supported. But it is evident that a man ought to be bound by the principles upon which he is elected. All refusal is an insult; all evasion is an injury. When Sir William Curtis tells the liverymen of London that he will do as he pleases, he insults them; but if the spiritless puppets choose to be spurned by such a being, it is not Sir William, but the wretches who tamely submit, who must take the censure. The open sins of the system are not dangerous. It is the sly, evasive, prudent practitioner, who will not, if he can help it, give a direct pledge—who plays fast and lose with all parties, to sneak into the house—who would beg a vote from Oliver if he had one, and promise the order of spies his most especial protection. Let the electors make every man speak out. The advocates and opponents of the people are known in sufficient numbers. Let the electors prepare tests, and oblige those for whom they vote to sign and acknowledge them. Whatever their sentiments may be, let them be sure to select those who will advocate them with sincerity and effect. A few honest men, and is it quite hopeless to

expect them, with only a sufficient stock of resolution, might arrest the course of the system, in a short period. The object to be gained is a great national good; and who would hesitate to make a personal sacrifice. The value of a vote for seven years, even to those who get a good price for its infamous barter, would be saved to every man in one, by reform and retrenchment. This will account for the outcry against reform that prevails among the interested parties. That wretched defender of the system, Dr. Slop, in the New Times, cautions the electors against the attempts that are making to rob them of their birth-rights. By *birthright*, the juggler means the right of *selling their votes* to their oppressors; for a petty sum, which earned by infamy, is almost always spent in debauchery! They would not lose *their votes*, if their fellow citizens acquired the right of voting; but they would lose the power of selling their own liberties, and the liberties of the country. Allow us again to repeat that there will be no want of resolute, and able men; but to be obtained, they must be looked for—they must be sought after. Men like Wilberforce, Stanniforth, Mitchell, Egginston, Butterworth, Broadhurst, and Heygate, may be found in every village by dozens, putting forward their impertinent faces, and insolently asking of their superiors to hang undeserved honors upon their unhallowed shoulders. May their pretensions be seen through, and despised; and may those who wish to have any share in the honor of rescuing their liberties from the fangs of a villainous usurpation, rouse themselves, gird on the swords and bucklers of honest reason, shake off all mean prejudices, and assert their own rights. Let them set those examples to their representatives, and insist that they shall be followed? Is not the master superior to the servant? And shall the public be disobeyed by the servants of the public?

The dissolution of the present House of Commons is now said by the ministerial party to be fixed for the 10th of June. There is not much reliance to be placed on such authority; but there appears no great reason to imagine they are now following their usual trade of deception. They are now compelled to choose between being *obliged* to go to an election, when the mischievous system they act upon may have led to more disastrous consequences, or to make the best they can of their misrule, and get a new parliament assembled, before they become, if it be possible, more detested than they are. Every day brings them to the brink of that abyss into which they, or the nation must fall. There is no retreat. They have like Phaeton usurped the chariot; and although we bear them personally no hostility, we had rather they shared his fate, than the chariot should be overturned. Every artifice, every meanness, every species of despotism will, as usual be employed. The *mart* of *vice* is opened, and the bidders will be rash and numerous. The gay will be tempted with profusion, the avaricious bought with the ragged substitute for gold. Hypocrisy will stalk abroad, and credulity will be again its victim. Yet if there be any band faithful to the common weal. If the land of Sydney can boast any gleam of his spirit, there will be some accession to the following parliament that may change its fatal character. That one can do little good among such a preponderance of evil can be but partially allowed as true. One honest man may scare a hundred robbers. Tyranny is always fearful,—villainy is always cowardly. Those who are conscious of wrong, will fear its exposure. They may affect to bluster, but it is only a prelude to their flight. The hour of battle is at hand; and if the electors do their duty, it will be singular if no representative should be found to second their endeavours.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Received - One of the Swinish Multitude. Crispin Leatherhead. John Derisly. Packet from Mr. Lewis. Sophisticatus. Whitaker. Letter from Jonathan Taylor, Locksbury. Black Jack. A. B. William Ogden. True Blue. Jonah.

The volumes left by Dr. Maclean shall be carefully perused.

More important subjects have induced the Editor to pass over Mr. White's last *gentlemanly*, and *argumentative* letter. Such of his readers as are impatient for a smile at impotence in anger, are referred to the Whig of last Sunday. A little delay will do Mr. White some service. He may recover his temper, and, perhaps, his reason.

LETTERS OF THE BLACK DWARF.

From the Black Dwarf in London to the Yellow Bonze in Japan.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

My Yellow Friend,

Part of the legislators of this country are *elected* once in seven years. That era is now approaching; and those who are ambitious of making laws for others which they do not intend shall bind themselves, are now advancing their several pretensions to that distinguished honour. I was anxious to learn what were the necessary qualifications to enable a person to obtain a seat in that assembly; and having asked this question of a gentleman, he put into my hands a Pamphlet, containing "Directions how to be elected a member of the next house of commons."—I intend, for the *benefit* of the *candidates* to publish the whole; but a few extracts will be sufficient for thee: because thou art only in want of the bare outline of the means to be taken for such a purpose. Thou art a bonze; and bonzes are not permitted to sit in that honourable assembly. Some say that the patron of the pious bonze is not to be met with there. This I cannot vouch for, but a religious member being asked what he was doing there, answered "*seeking the lord:*"—to which the reply was—"go somewhere else; for to my certain knowledge he has not been here these many days!" But what of that? Have not the worshippers of Mammon an undoubted right to elect their master? Pardon my digression:—I will hasten to give thee infallible directions how to make a senator of a scoundrel!

The first enquiry being about principles, our author addressing the candidate, says,—"You either *have*, or are *without* any political principles whatever. If the *latter*, you are *safe*, and will most likely be *successful*. But supposing you to have a *small matter* of what are *called* principles, your situation will be a good deal more untoward. In this case, if they are *genuine*, and *your own*, and not picked up nor stolen, nor borrowed, nor inherited from, nor dictated by any body else, the best way, I think is to *conceal them*,

"Should you be a wretched automaton, put in by some patron, to whose pleasure you are implicitly to conform, it is of course but just, that HE should answer for your principles; in which case you have *nothing at all to do with them myourself*.

"Pledges that bind your future public conduct are very awkward things, and I would advise you not to meddle with them. You may however deal in *generals*, as much as you like with perfect safety. For example, if you have sat in the previous parliament, you may securely promise that you will act *as honestly* and *disinterestedly* in that parliament *as you did in the last*!

"If some humbugging, selfish, lying, jobbing rascal should have preceded you in the last parliament, in the object of your laudable ambition, you may without danger engage *to tread in the footsteps of your patriotic and most worthy predecessor*!

"Should you be driven into a corner by some hard hearted barbarian, no honester than yourself, you have still a good answer by declaring "before God,"* that without any bias whatever, you will vote in all these cases, according to *your conscience!* The *novelty* and *solemnity* of this, if pronounced with careful emphasis, will impose upon scrupulous people, and with a *grave* demeanour in other respects will last you to the end of the chapter. This in good truth is the safest reserve after all, since what passes between you and your conscience, is known only to *yourself*, and can get no further, unless you are fool enough to divulge it!

I have hitherto regarded your conduct in a reference only to the defence of your own pretensions. I am now to contemplate you in a much more important occupation—that of attacking your adversary. The fact is that probably *little* can be said *for* either of you: and the victory in this contest will be altogether with him who can say the most against the other. If it be contended on behalf of your antagonist, that he is too proud, or too honest to accept a paltry title, a bribe, or an office; too free in his nature to let any man shackle his opinions! too inflexible on any consideration to give up a principle: your answer by immemorable custom will be held satisfactory, if you reply that he does not lie with his wife; to which, in case he is successful in that way, you may add, he has a whole brood of children by his mistress.

"On the *contra* side, if it be objected against yourself, that your whole former parliamentary conduct has been a career of shameless prostitution; that you have deceived, bamboozled, deserted, and sold your constituents, you have an answer ready and satisfactory—namely, that you are a very worthy, pleasant fellow, and very fond of your wife and children. The foregoing will answer from a king downwards. There are *but six* known *legitimate* ways of getting into P———t; namely, *flattering*, *begging*, *threatening*, *bribing*, *promising*, and *canting*. Your success will altogether depend on a dexterous application of each. And here the first place is indisputably due to the SEX. Shop-keepers are implicitly governed by their wives; the son by his mother; the lover by his mistress; and so throughout the circle; while beauty is powerful beyond all these relationships. You must therefore get one or more of the *belles* to wear your colours; for I have often known a pretty woman keep a cause in *countenance*, where the real agitator of it dare not shew *his own!* It is *said* also that *bribery* is best carried on through the medium of the SEX; as you can offer a woman for her *friend*, or husband, what you cannot offer those personages themselves. I have not however found it so; on the contrary, though often too fond to be wise, I have invariably found women too honest to be bribed.

"When you apply yourself to any wretched, corrupt, decayed, depopulated borough, you are to address the voters, especially *in print*, by entitling them the *numerous*, *worthy*, and *independent* burgesses of such and such a *most respectable* place. *If there be* a cobbler in the town, or a girl who knits stockings, you may talk of their ingenious manufactures. If the *excisman*, *tax-collector*, and *attorney*, live upon the spot, you may flatter them on their opulence; and when you meet to drive your bargain for their votes, the opportunity of congratulating them on *their trade* will not be lost by you.

"*Begging*, besides being *good*, and *cheap*, is very successful in the hands of some skilful practitioners; and if a man can stoop to bring on himself the humiliation of a repulse; can without tumbling, climb up four pair of stairs into a garret; or without falling dive into a cellar, to solicit the support of some beggar, to redeem whose life from starvation, or the gallows, he would not part with sixpence; why, I say, such a candidate is made for such a purpose, and may thrive by it.

"The next way, or that of *threatening*, is also a very excellent one for obtaining your purpose. You accordingly, agreeable to custom, give all your tenants notice before a general election; and in borough towns, you threaten to ruin, strip, and turn into the streets all your tenants, and lessees, who are in any shape dependent upon you, if they thwart your election machinations.

"There is *a threat* which you have it always in your power to execute with *great severity*: and that is, if you are a *proud*, *ignorant*, *overbearing*, *disgusting* upstart, you may threaten the voters, *that you will come and live amongst them, if they do not return you!*

"The next method, that of *bribery*, has always been my favorite: having ever thought it the most *natural*, and *constitutional*, in our *trading nation;* where *circulation* is the life of every thing,—and where it may reasonably seem hard to a man, to be debarred from selling his *vote*, who would sell his father, or himself; who is allowed, *by law*, to sell his *wife;* and who sees his betters every day sell their country!

"As to the penultimate mode, or that of *promising*, here you have means without stint, and it is your own fault if you do not employ them. You may promise, both what you *can*, and what you *cannot* perform: as to what you *can*, you afterwards may, or may not perform that, accord- to your own convenience; and in what you *cannot*, nobody is ever considered bound to perform that which is impossible!

"Should you have been so *indiscret*, as to promise the same identical paltry office to *only half a dozen* of your

* At ——— and elsewhere, this asseveration, from a very eminent personage, commonly accompanies a *greater lie than usual!*

constituents, and happen to be pressed by any one of them for the performance, you may answer that you are wholly prevented from serving him, by the consideration of the offence that your compliance would give to your other worthy friends who have the same claims on you. Thus you beat him off—you reserve your bait, or *may sell it*, whilst you inculcate the entertaining paradox, *that you disappoint them* all, for fear of *giving any of them offence*!

"I now come to my last topic,—namely *canting*, which is in fact but a *creditable* sort of *humbugging*, fit for men of grave deportment and decent lives.

"In the management of this art, however, you are never to be *caught napping;* and observe as a safe general rule, that whenever you mean to *humbug* ten times more than common, you are to *cant* one hundred times more than common, about *your conscience*. I need not tell you how extremely regular you are to be at church.

"Having now conducted you by some, or all, of my foregoing instructions, to the attainment of the object of your noble ambition, I have but one supplementary advice to give you, and that I trust is superfluous; namely, *to go and sell yourself at once to the ministers.*

"I will at parting, conclude with one friendly and even serious advice, which, as my last words, I enjoin you never to forget,—namely, that if contrary to all probabilities in these days, you cherish a spark of honour in your bosom, making you spurn even at the thought of becoming the vile sycophant of any man, or the viler advocate of any corruption, and have ever had the folly to let its avowal escape you; let me counsel you, I repeat, to be satisfied with that *committed folly*—and not to add to it the infinitely greater, of supposing that it will entitle you to the countenance and support, or the suffrage of one man in ten thousand—or in the regular course of things, qualify you for a seat in any House, except it be a *spunging-house*, a *work-house*, or a *mad-house*!"

Such, my yellow friend, are the *recommendations* given by one perfectly conversant with these strange people. I had some thoughts of endeavouring to obtain a seat in this *respectable* assembly; but, alas! my foreign education places the *necessary virtues* quite out of my reach. I have only given thee a *specimen** of the *requisites*. The catalogue is beyond thy powers of conception. Thou couldst not conceive that dishonour should lead to dignity, and that men must become informers themselves before they presume to punish infamy in others.

Thy well-wisher,
THE BLACK DWARF.

* The whole of the pamphlet is now published, and may be had of all the venders of the Black Dwarf.

JACK KETCH TO LORDS C——GH, S——TH, AND THE HONOURABLE THE ——— OF ———.

"Who so sheddeth man's blood by man shall his blood be shed."

BIBLE.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Although *young* in the profession I have had of late a deal of *practice*, which of course, has not only improved my circumstances, but also amended my judgment in the official discharge of my duty,—so that in sheer gratitude, I am now bound to offer you my most sincere thanks as well for past favours, as future expectations;—but although thus splendidly patronised, my Lords and Gentlemen, I have for some time past felt very uneasy in my mind,—to be candid, I am completely miserable, for whether sleeping or waking, the *groans* of some of the unhappy victims whom I have hanged, (in obedience to order) seem always sounding in my ears,—my mind in consequence is filled with the most appalling imagery, and even when in the act of drinking, my awakened conscience exclaims with Judas "*it is the price of blood*;" nor is this all, for sometimes after an execution day, I have thought to enjoy myself over a delicious fowl, when after eating a mouthful or two, its dimensions have suddenly enlarged and assumed the dying and mangled form of a human being; instantly I have rose from the table, thrown down my knife and fork, with horror plucked from my throat the unmasticated flesh, and fled from my house, thirsty, hungry, and miserable. Even these feelings are dreadful, but oh! my Lords and Gentlemen, could you have seen me *last Friday night* convulsed and agonised on my bed, you would have pitied me; but had you been the subject of my feelings and views, you would have fervently implored "the rocks and mountains to fall on us,"—the night was dark and tempestuous, and it was the howling of the tempest and rattling of the rain and hail against my windows which awoke me to all the horrors of my situation.——I had dreamt my Lords and Gentlemen, that I was in the act of securing the fatal knot around the neck of some *supposed* criminals, when the immense multitude of people assembled before Newgate unexpectedly rushed forward,—beat down all opposition, crying out "the day of retribution is arrived—"the bloodhounds" must now be paid in their own coin—they instantly liberated the intended victims, seized and hanged me (like Haman of old) upon my own gibbet.—Yes, my Lords and Gentlemen, powerless, imploring, and trembling, I was forcibly tied up—but oh, now comes on the super-human horrors of my soul;—methought after my neck had been dislocated by the fall of the drop, and life was fast ebbing away, that my fearfully conscious spirit, violently struggled to remain in her earthly tenement, for at every avenue to the other world, a *laughing* fiend was waiting to receive me; the immortal principal redoubled its fruitless efforts, until the last pang of expiring nature finally shook my body, when out it rushed in frantic fury—instantly a thousand *unutterable* sounds and forms assailed my more acute senses,—from these infernals, I rushed forward as quick as thought. I arrived at the extreme limits of the universe,—they surrounded and seized me as the gulph of hell yawned on my terrified vision—at this instant the red hot thunder belts of eternal wrath singled me out, transfixing and pursuing me, gnashing and writhing, to the lowest depths of the inextinguishable fluid. I now awoke my Lords, fearfully looking around me and found it a dream; but ah, such a dream as corresponds with the impressions of my waking moments, therefore I am constrained to avow that "I do not like my situation," and earnestly beg to retire on a pension, which is the principal object of this application. Moreover my Lords and Gentlemen, I have an additional argument in support of my claims, which is that *the people* tell me that "there are some crimes of so high and malignant a nature, that in the perpetration of them all *accessaries* will be considered as principals;"—therefore inferring from this broad *hint*, I am led to conclude, that if I do not give in my appointment in time, I shall have the honour of being *elevated*,——— whilst my employers will only rise to the ——— And again my troublesome conscience now tells me, that if a petty hungry thief, who picks a man's pocket, &c. is to be hanged, why the great pampered rogues that pick the pockets of the nation, ought to be hanged drawn and quartered. In consequence of this impression and expectation, I have lately bought up a tolerably quantity of silken halters, for the sole use and benefit of some of our topping thieves;—this compliment however was not intended for the *directors*, &c. who must expect to wear the same valedictory cravat which is worn by small felons; however I have carefully set apart a good round quantity of these delicate silken turn overs, for the exclusive decoration of divers *worthy* gentlemen, whom I have marked out for my customers.—It would not be good breeding in me to mention their names now, although they have been *full weight* a long time since. I have also as the end and *finisher of justice*, purchased (at least) a dozen curious axes (much better than either of those tried on the necks of Brandreth and the *Derby* rioters) they are spick and span new with rare steel edges. I have just now been handling one of them, indeed they are the fittest that could be made for the purpose:—and here, my Lords and Gentlemen, I beg to repeat (with all due deference) that the slaughtering and hanging of such poor wretches *only* (as things now stand) is comparatively, if not *positively*, *shedding innocent blood*, and so for the ease of my mind (and as an express stipulation for my not retiring from office) I most devoutly beg that I may have those sent me who I may truss up with a safe conscience. My mouth waters, and my bowels yearn at the names of ——— ——— ——— pray let me have them, and I will do my

dety *gratis*. This you know, my lords and gentlemen, will be setting an admirable *example for economy*, and give me more spiritual consolation than the pope and the whole bench of bishops together. In conclusion my lords and gentlemen, I have strong reason to hope from the present noble spirit rising in the people (and they say it is principally owing to *your* exertions) that I shall become a blessing and not a curse to the nation as heretofore; if so my lords and gentlemen, I shall endeavour to give satisfaction to all parties, but *particularly to my present employers!!!*

I am my Lords and Gentlemen,
Your very humble Servant,

New Drop, Old Bailey, April 28th, 1818. JOHN KETCH.

N. B. *Pro Bono Publico.* I have a nice hand at preparing a neck of quality, therefore *state* criminals need go no where else, as "delicacy and dispatch," is my motto.

* The Sythian Ambassadors said to Alexander, the Macedonian, "You pretend to be the punisher of robbers, and are yourself the general robber of mankind:" and again, "thou that sayest a man should not steal dost *thou* steal. NEW TESTAMENT.

To the Editor of the Black Dwarf.

MR. EDITOR,

Curious to learn what could be advanced against the christian equality of men, in respect to the rights of suffrage, in the election of those who are to be the legislative guardians of all men, I took the trouble of reading a book entitled "The Rights of Property vindicated against the "claims of Universal Suffrage," written "by Robert Fellowes, A. M. "Oxon," antiently called *Oxenford*.

Not comprehending a *vindication* of that which is not attacked, condemned, or censured; but supposing that it was to appear among the "new views of general policy," also announced in the title, I resolutely determined to labour through the whole book, and absolutely kept that resolution.

The effect produced may be gathered from the following composition, which, Mr. Editor, is much at your service.

PHILO TAURUS.

THE THREE BULLS AND THE JACKDAW.

A Fable.

Three English bulls, renown'd for Freedom's lore,
Reform's wide field had travers'd o'er and o'er,
Had toss'd or trod down every venal foe,
Who dar'd at Liberty to aim a blow;
When a pert jackdaw, from a western church,
On Lambeth's lofty belfry chose to perch:
Thence chatt'ring to his grace in courtly strain,
With senseless sophistry and witless brain,—
On me, he crows, depends old England's fate;
In me, behold the prop of Church and State;
Then feed me well, feather my nest, and I
For property, sans liberty, will cry.
By gabbling myst'ries none can understand,
From Bull ascendancy I'll free the land;
Prove Cobbett, Cartwright, Bentham, driv'lers all,
For, spite of them, 'tis most political
To be but *moderately honest*, when
We reckon with high patron noblemen.
How good the great, how wise, how just, how kind,
How *mad* the mob, I'll ever keep in mind;
Forget that Jesus patroniz'd the poor,
And pray that Parliament will shut its door,
'Gainst justice, truth, benevolence, and right;
Reckless of ev'ry law, but that of might.
Then saint Archbishop, religious "Lord of Trade,"*
Let me a canon or a dean be made,
Archdeacon, prebendary, what you will,
For my unrival'd controversal skill.

* His Grace of Canterbury is a Lord of *Trade*.

ROYAL CHARITY.

In wonder lost, Hodge cries aloud,—adzooks,
How charitable are our Royal Dukes;
What sums of money to the poor they give,
Good souls! I wonder hew they do to live?
You fool, cries Ralph, I tell you they have plenty,—
One hand deals out a thousand to the poor,
While t'other from the people's droits takes twenty.

HUMBUG.

A comparative View of the population, and number of Voters, of the Boroughs in Great Britain, and the Counties of England and Scotland, with their Patrons and Proprietors.

BOROUGHS.	Inhabitants.	Voters.	Persons to Voters.	PATRONS & PROPRIETORS.
Bedford, *Bedfordsh*	5,051	1,501	3	Independent.
Reading, *Berkshire*	11,678	700	16	Ditto.
Abingdon ditto	5,140	370	14	Ditto.
Windsor ditto.. ...	6,971	420	16	Government.
Wallingford ditto ..	2,035	180	11	Sir F. Sykes, Earl Abingdon.
Buckingham, *Buck*	3,214	13	247	Marquis of Buckingham.
Wycombe ditto....	2,605	65	40	Ld. Carington, Sir. T. Baring.
Aylesbury ditto	3,610	600	6	Marq. Buking. Duke Devon.
Marlow ditto... ..	2,970	235	13	O. Williams, Esq.
Wendover do.....	1,536	110	11	Lord Carington.
‖ Agmondesham ditto		125		D. T. T. Drake, Esq.
Cambridge, *Cambr.*	11,692	240	48	Duke of Rutland.
Ditto University ...		850		
Chester City *Chesh*	17,049	1,000	17	Independent.
Launceston, *Cornwall*	1,934	23	83	Duke Northumberland.
Leskeard ditto	2,049	105	19	Lord Elliot.
Lestwithiel ditto....		24		Earl Mount Edgecumbe.
Truro ditto.....	2,570	26	99	Lord Falmouth.
Bodmin ditto.....	2,136	36	60	Sir John Morshead, Bart.
Hellestone ditto....	2,340	36	65	Duke of Leeds.
Saltash ditto	1,682	36	47	J. Buller, Esq.
‖ East Looe ditto ..		50		Ditto.
‖ West Looe ditto .		55		Ditto.
Grampound ditto ..		6		Independent.
Camelford ditto....		19		Duke of Bedford.
Penryn ditto	2,968	146	21	Lord de Dunstanville.
Tregony ditto.....		18		R. Barwell, Esq.
‖ Bossiny ditto		30		El. M. Edgecumbe, Mar. Bath.
St. Ives ditto	3,537	190	19	Sir C. Hawkins.
Fowey ditto		70		El. M. Edgecumbe, P. Rashleigh
St. Germains ditto..	2,209	6	367	Lord Eliot.
‖ St. Michael ditto..		32		Sir C. Hawkins.
‖ Newport ditto....		62		Earl of Beverley.
‖ St. Maws ditto....		20		Marquis Buckingham.
Callington ditto ..		52		Lord Clinton.
Carlisle city *Cumb*	14,062	750	19	Duke Norfolk, Earl Lonsdale.
Cockermouth ditto	3,095	180	17	Earl of Lonsdale.
Derby, *Derbyshire*	14,285	700	20	Duke of Devonshire.
Ashburton, *Devonsh*	3,158	170	18	Ld. Clinton, Sir L. Palke.
Tiverton ditto.	7,036	24	29	Lord Harrowby.
Dartmouth ditto....	3,797	100	37	E. Bastard, Esq.
Oakhampton ditto..	1,504	220	7	Albany Saville, Esq. 1 memb.
Honiton ditto... ..	2,916	380	7	Sir George Young, Bart.
Plymouth ditto	56,800	230	247	Admiralty, one member.
Bereadston ditto....	1,733	100	17	Earl of Beverley.
Plympton ditto.....		210		Earl Mt. Edgecumbe.
Totness ditto	2,846	58	49	Duke Bolton, Sir F. Buller.
Barnstaple ditto....	4196	383	11	Independent.
Tavistock ditto	5,372	120	45	Duke of Bedford.
Exeter city ditto ..	20,340	1,500	12	Independent.
Dorchester, *Dorsetsh*	2,629	200	13	El. Shaftsbury, El. Dorchester
Lyme Regis ditto ..	2,207	30	73	Earl Westmoreland.
Weymouth 3,398 } Melcomb Reg. 2014 }	5,444	400	13	S. Pulteney, G. Steward.
Bridport ditto	3,958	230	17	Independent.
Shaftsbury ditto ...	3,058	300	10	Ditto.
Wareham ditto	1,798	180	10	J. Calcraft, Esq.
‖ Corfe-Castle ditto		50		J. Banks, J. Bond.
Poole ditto.....	4,895	95	51	G. Lester, treasury, Mr. Jeffery.
Durham city, *Durh*	7,120	1,200	6	Mr. Lambton, Sir H. Tempest.
Colchester, *Essex* ..	13,420	1,560	8	Independent.
Maldon ditto	2,892	80	36	J. H. Strutt, 1 member.
Harwich Ditto.	4,307	32	134	Treasury.
Tewkesbury, *Gloces*	5,239	530	10	Independent.
Cirencester ditto. ..	4,816	700	7	Earl Bathurst, 1 member.

BOROUGHS	Inhabitants	Voters	Persons to Voters	PATRONS & PROPRIETORS
Glocester city ditto.	9,065	2,100	4	Independent.
Hereford city, *Here*	7,782	1,200	6	Ditto.
Leominster ditto.	3,469	400	8	Earl of Essex.
Weobly ditto		90		Marquis of Bath.
Hertford, *Hertfords.*	4,389	600	7	Mr. Calvert, Baron Dimsdale.
St. Albans ditto....	4,039	600	6	Visc. Grimston, Earl Spencer.
Huntingdon, *Huntin*	2,606	240	11	Earl of Sandwich.
Rochester city, *Kent*	10,256	760	13	Independent.
Queenborough ditto		170		Ordnance & Admiralty.
Maidstone, *Kent*....	10,462	680	15	Independent.
Canterbury city do.	11,071	1,600	7	Ditto.
Sandwich ditto	2,893	700	4	Sir P. Stevens, 1 member.
Dover ditto.....	22,017	1,300	17	Admiralty.
New Romney ditto.		17		Sir E. Deering.
Hythe ditto.....	2,865	40	70	W. Evelyn, H. C. Radcliffe.
Lancaster, *Lancash*	9,541	1,600	6	Independent.
Preston ditto	20,535	1,700	12	Earl Derby, 1 member.
Liverpool ditto....	105,139	3,000	35	Independent.
Wigan ditto.....	17,012	210	81	Lord Bradford, L. Coats.
Clitheroe ditto.	1,953	44	44	Visc. Curzon, Ld. Ribblesdale.
Newton ditto.....	1,655	63	27	T. P. Legh, Esq.
Leicester, *Leicestersh*	27,511	1,600	17	Independent.
Stamford, *Lincolnsh.*	5,641	540	9	Marquis Exeter.
Grantham ditto....	3,829	760	5	Duke Rutland, Ld. Brownlow
Boston ditto	9,183	400	23	Lord Gwydir, T. Fydell.
Great Grimsby ditto.	3,131	290	11	Lord Yarborough.
Lincoln city ditto. ..	10,032	1,260	8	Independent.
Westminster city *Mid.*	158,650	14,000	12	Ditto.
London city ditto..	343,840	12,000	53	Ditto.
Monmouth, *Monmou.*	3,645	900	4	Duke of Beaufort.
Lynn Regis, *Norfolk*	10,612	300	35	Earl of Orford.
Yarmouth ditto....	19,756	1,150	17	Marquis Townshend.
Thetford ditto.	2,609	31	84	Duke of Grafton, Lord Petre.
‖ Castle Rising ditto.	254	40	6	El. Cholmondeley, R. Howard
Norwich city ditto..	32,218	3,000	10	Independent.
Peterboro' city *Nort*	3,825	460	8	Earl Fitzwilliam.
Brackley ditto.	1,678	32	52	Earl of Bridgewater.
Northampton ditto.	9,114	1,000	9	Independent.
Higham Ferrers do		145		Earl Fitzwilliam.
Morpeth, *Northum.*	3,429	200	17	Earl of Carlisle.
Newcastle ditto....	28,510	2,500	11	Independent.
Berwick ditto.	8,115	700	11	Lord Delaval, 1 member.
East Retford, *Nott*	2,146	140	15	Duke of Newcastle.
Newark ditto.....	7,690	700	11	Ditto.
Nottingham ditto ..	38,836	1,700	22	Independent.
Oxford city, *Oxfords*	13,750	48	286	D. Marlboro'. El. Abingdon.
Ditto University do.		800		
Woodstock ditto ..	1,509	420	3	Duke Marlborough.
Banbury ditto	2,930	18	162	Earl Guildford.
Shrewsbury, *Shropsh*	11,017	500	30	Sir J. Pulteney, Ld. Berwick.
Ludlow ditto	4,379	500	8	Earl of Powis.
Bridgenorth ditto ..	4,645	750	6	Whitmore, Esq.
Wenlock ditto	2,169	110	19	Lord Bradford, C. Forester.
Bishop's Castle ditto	1,510	60	25	Earl Powis.
Taunton, *Somersetsh.*	8,014	450	18	J. Hammet, Esq. 1 member.
Ilchester ditto		70		Sir W. Manners.
‖ Milborn Port ditto		92		W. C. Medlycott, Mar. Anglesea
Wells city ditto	5,783	130	44	C. Tudway, partially.
Bridgewater ditto ..	5,865	300	19	Earl Paulett.
Bath city ditto.....	33,010	18	1,834	Marquis Bath, Earl Camden.
Minchead ditto		190		J. F. Luttrell, Esq.
Bristol city ditto	82,450	52	1,585	
Winchester city *South*	7,240	34	213	Sir H. Midmay, Sir R, Gamon
Portsmouth ditto	41,208	100	412	
Newport ditto	4,020	24	167	Rev. L. T. Holmes.
Yarmouth ditto		50		J. C. Jervoise, L. T. Holmes.
‖ Newton ditto		40		Sir R. Worsley, L. T. Holmes.
Lymington ditto ...	2,814	70	40	Sir H. Neale.
Christchurch ditto ..	1,676	50	33	Right Hon. George Rose.
Andover ditto	3,407	24	142	Earl Portsmouth, J. Iremonger
Whitchurch ditto		70		Lord Sidney, Lord Middleton.
Petersfield ditto ...		140		H. Joliffe, Esq.
Stockbridge ditto ...		100		J. F. Barham, G. Porter.

BOROUGHS	Inhabitants	Voters	Persons Voters	PATRONS & PROPRIETORS
Southampton ditto ..	11,108	800	13	Independent.
Stafford *Staffordshir*	5,417	600	9	Ditto.
Tamworth ditto ...	3,215	300	10	Mar. Townshend, R. Peele, esq.
Newcastle ditto ...	7,038	650	10	Marquis Stafford.
Litchfield city ditto	5,412	20	270	Lord Anson, Marquis Stafford.
Ipswich, *Suffolk* ..	15,074	720	21	
Dunwich ditto ...	152	13	10	B. Barne, esq. Ld. Huntingfield.
Orford ditto	751	20	37	Marquis of Hertford.
Aldborough ditto...	891	80	10	P. C. Crispigny, Esq.
Sudbury ditto ...	3,523	800	4	Independent.
Eye, Suffolk.	2,016	100	20	Marquis Cornwallis.
Bury St. Edmunds dit.	3,200	88	95	Duke Grafton, Earl Bristol.
‖ Gatton, Surry		30		Mark Wood, bart.
Haslemere ditto		60		Earl Lonsdale.
‖ Blechingley ditto ..		80		Sir R. Clayton.
Ryegate ditto		200		Earl Hardwick, Lord Somers.
Guildford ditto	3,160	230	13	Lord Onslow, Grantley.
Southwark ditto	75,560	3,500	21	Independent.
Horsham, *Sussex*....	4,257	25	170	Duke Norfolk.
‖ Bramber ditto		20		Duke Rutland, Lord Calthorpe.
New Shoreham ditto	4,500	1,350	4	Duke Norfolk.
Midhurst ditto		18		Lord Carington.
East Grinstead ditto	2,942	30	98	Duke Dorset.
Steyning ditto..		110		Duke Norfolk, Sir G. Thomas.
Arundel ditto	2,349	450	5	Duke of Norfolk.
Lewes ditto	7,150	300	23	Earl Chichester, 1 Member.
Chichester city ditto	7,209	680	10	Duke Richmond, member.
Hastings ditto	4,308	34	126	Edward Milward, Esq.
Rye ditto	2,896	9	321	Ditto.
Winchelsea ditto....		17		Earl Darlington, Mr. Barwell.
‖ Seaford ditto		98		Duke Richmond, 1 member.
Warwick, *Warwicksh.*	6,879	550	12	Earl Warwick.
Coventry city ditto..	19,124	2,570	7	Independent.
Appleby, *Westmore.*		100		Earl Thanet, Earl Lonsdale.
‖ New Sarum, *Wilt.*		54		Earl Radnor.
Devizes ditto	4,040	40	101	I. Sutton, Esq.
Marlborough ditto ..	2,709	21	129	Earl Aylesbury.
Chippenham ditto .	3,500	135	26	Sir S. Fludyer, J. Dawkins.
Calne ditto.	3,643	24	151	Marquis Lansdowne.
Malmsbury ditto		13		Dr. Wilkins.
Cricklade ditto.....	1,768	1,350		Independent.
Hindon ditto		240		W. Beckford, Lord Calthorpe.
‖ Old Sarum ditto ..		7		Earl Caledon.
‖ Heytesbury ditto ..		50		Duke Marlbor. Sir W. A'Court.
Westbury ditto ...	1,852	60	30	Earl Abingdon.
Wotton Basset ditto	1,524	100	15	El Clarendon, Vis. Bolingbroke
‖ Ludgershall ditto ..		70		Vis. Sydney, T. Wertt, Esq.
Wilton ditto	2,409	26	120	Earl Pembroke.
Downton ditto.....	2,752	21	131	Earl Radnor.
Great Bedwin ditto		80		Earl Aylesbury.
Evesham, *Worcest.*	3,219	600	5	Independent.
Droitwich ditto	2,256	12	186	Lord Foley.
Bewdley ditto	3,510	13	270	Lord Lyttleton.
Worcester city ditto..	15,042	2,000	7	Independent.
Aldborough, *York.*	464	58	8	Duke Newcastle.
Boroughbridge ditto	747	60	12	Ditto.
Beverly ditto	7,129	1,200	6	Independent.
Heydon ditto	788	168	5	Ditto.
Knaresborough ditto	4,406	110	40	Duke Devonshire.
Malton ditto.....	4,015	270	15	Earl Fitzwilliam.
North Allerton ditto	2,293	206	11	H. Pierse, Lord Harewood.
Pontefract ditto	3,910	606	6	Lord Galway, 1 member.
Richmond ditto	3,231	270	12	Lord Dundas.
Rippon ditto	3,865	143	26	Mrs Adamson.
Scarborough ditto ..	7,306	45	120	Duke Rutland, Lord Malgrave
Thirsk ditto	2,125	50	44	Sir T. Frankland.
York city ditto	19,77[illegible]	3,000	6	Independent.
Hull ditto...	28,297	1,700	16	Ditto.
WALES.				
Beaumaris	1,975	24	82	Rord Vis. Bulkley.
Brecon	3,507	700	5	Independent.
Cardigan	2,163	1,100		Ditto.

BOROUGHS	Inhabitants	Voters	Persons to Voters	PATRONS & PROPRIETORS
Carmarthen	7,790	160	43	Ditto.
Carnarvon	5,046	800	6	Ditto.
Denbigh	2,894	560	5	Ditto.
Flint	1,570	4	392	Sir. W. W. Wynne.
Cardiff	2,721	1,250	2	Independent.
Montgomery		80		Earl of Powis.
Pembroke	2,536	500	5	Sir H. Owen.
Haverfordwest	3,240	500	6	Lord Milford.
New Radner		1,150		Independent.

COUNTIES OF ENGLAND.

COUNTIES.	Square Miles.	Inhabitants.	Members.	Persons to one Member.
Bedfordshire	430	70,213	4	17,553
Berkshire	744	118,277	9	13,141
Buckinghamshire	748	117,650	14	8,403
Cambridgeshire	686	101,109	6	16,851
Cheshire	1,017	227,031	4	56,757
Cornwall	1,407	216,667	44	4,924
Cumberland	1,497	133,744	6	22,290
Derbyshire	1,077	185,487	4	46,371
Devonshire	2,488	383,308	26	14,744
Dorsetshire	1,129	124,693	20	6,232
Durham	1,040	177,625	4	44,406
Essex	1,525	252,473	8	31,559
Gloucestershire	1,122	285,514	8	35,689
Herefordshire	971	94,073	8	11,759
Hertfordshire	602	111,654	6	18,602
Huntingdonshire	345	42,208	4	10,552
Kent	1,462	373,095	18	20,727
Lancashire	1,806	828,309	14	59,164
Leicestershire	816	150,419	4	37,604
Lincolnshire	2,787	237,891	12	19,824
Middlesex	297	953,270	8	119,159
Monmouthshire	516	62,127	3	20,709
Norfolk	2,013	291,999	12	24,333
Northamptonshire	965	141,353	9	15,705
Northumberland	1,809	172,161	8	21,520
Nottinghamshire	774	162,896	8	20,362
Oxfordshire	742	119,191	9	13,243
Rutlandlshire	200	16,380	2	8,190
Shropshire	1,403	194,298	12	16,191
Somersetshire	1,549	303,180	18	16,843
Southampton	1,533	245,080	26	9,426
Staffordshire	1,196	295,153	10	29,515
Suffolk	1,566	234,211	16	14,638
Surry	811	323,851	14	23,132
Sussex	1,461	190,678	28	6,788
Warwickshire	984	228,735	6	38,122
Westmoreland	722	45,922	4	11,480
Wiltshire	1,283	193,828	34	5,700
Worcestershire	674	160,546	9	17,838
Yorkshire	6,012	973,115	30	32,437
Total	50,220	9,548,827	489	21,048
Estimated Increase		244,000		

COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND.

COUNTIES.	Inhabitants.	No. of Voters.	Persons to One Vote.
Aberdeenshire	135,075	155	806
Argyleshire	85,585	59	1,450
Ayrshire	103,954	163	637
Bamffshire	36,668	32	1,145
Berwickshire	30,779	129	250
*Buteshire	12,033	18	668
*Caithnesshire	23,419	30	780
*Clackmannanshire	12,010	18	667
*Kinrosshire	7,245	17	432
Dumbartonshire	34,189	42	575

COUNTIES	Inhabitants	No. of Voters	Persons to one vote
Dumfrieshire	62,960	73	862
Edinburghshire	148,607	144	1,032
Elginshire	28,108	35	803
Fifeshire	101,272	221	458
Forfarshire	107,264	112	957
Haddingtonshire	31,164	77	404
Invernessshire	78,336	63	1,305
Kincardineshire	27,439	70	391
Kirkcudbrightshire	33,684	144	238
Lanarkshire	191,752	102	1,879
Linlithgowshire	19,451	72	270
*Nairnshire	8,25	23	358
*Cromartyshire	60,853	11	5,532
Orkney and Shetlandshire	46,153	34	1,357
Peeblesshire	9,935	40	248
Perthshire	135,093	214	631
Renfrewshire	92,596	98	934
Rosshire	160,853	68	2,365
Roxburghshire	37,230	146	255
Selkirkshire	5,889	36	163
Sterlingshire	58,173	110	528
Sutherlandshire	23,629	21	1,125
Wigtonshire	25,891	57	471

Note. *The Counties marked with an asterick return the Member alternately.*

THE BLASTED OAK.

Addressed to a Minister. By Clio Rickman.

Is there not some chosen curse,
Some hidden thunder in the stores of heaven,
Red with uncommon wrath, to blast the man
Who owes his greatness to his country's ruin.

Addison.

Hast thou ne'er seen a lightning blasted oak,
Dead at the root, and rotten at the core.
That tho' long groaning for the axe's stroke,
At top some scatter'd branches proudly bore;
Branches, whose fading leaves could neither form
Shade from the heat, nor covert from the storm.

Emblem of one, who tho' to hope long dead,
Like Phaeton holds on his downward way,
With transient lustre, Nelson gilds his head,
And hollow hearted slaves his nod obey:
Trust not in them! they fail thee in that hour,
When an o'erwhelming storm shall blast thy power.

Alas, my country! that those days are flown,
When Peace and Plenty gladden'd every face;
Dead at the root thy liberties are gone,
And vile oppression seizes on their place:—
She comes with trebled taxes in her hand,
And want and desolation sweep the land.

Dead are those golden branches, erst so fair;
Credit and Commerce, long Britannia's pride;
Too pure to breath corruption's tainted air,
They bloom'd together, and together died.
As ivys sap the oaks that they entwine,
So treacherous friends produc'd their deep decline.

Tho' you a Wellington may proudly boast,
Howe, Vincent, Nelson, conquer all in vain;
If credit, commerce, liberty be lost,
From naval triumphs what can Britain gain:
Whilst from a baneful Pitt foul vapours rise,
Commerce expires, and Freedom seeks the skies.

Proud patricide! arrest thy mad career,
Resign! to save thee, ere it be too late;
Britannia's rising vengeance learn to fear,
Repent and tremble,—snatch thee from thy fate;
Lest, tho' the axe spare thy devoted head,
The lightning of her wrath should strike the dead!

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